

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DHA-02

ORM-01 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

USIE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-10 SSO-00 PRS-01 /053 W

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O R 041336Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3815

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1750

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: FURTHER BACKGROUND ON TAMILNAD TAKEOVER

REF: MADRAS 0209

SUMMARY: SENIOR INDIAN NEWSMAN IN DELHI SAYS MRS. GANDHI BELIEVES USG WAS SUPPORTING DMK AND THIS PLAYED PART IN HER DECISION TO DECLARE PRESIDENT'S RULE IN TAMILNAD. DECISION TAKEN TO AVERT SERIES OF ANTICIPATED DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS EXPECTED TO BEING FEBRUARY 1. GOI MOVED 11 BATALIONS OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES AND 5 ARMY BATALIONS INTO TAMILNAD JANUARY 2 AS CONTINGENCY MEASURE. SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS IN TAMILNAD TO BE REPLACED SHORTLY. SHORT-TERM LAW AND ORDER NOT LIKELY TO BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM, BUT LONGER-TERM TENSIONS BETWEEN BRAHMINS, NON-BRAHMINS, AND NORTH/SOUTH LIKELY TO INCREASE. END SUMMARY.

1. MADRAS HINDU DELHI BUREAU CHIEF G.K. REDDY OFFERED

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FOLLOWING BACKGROUND ON DECISION TO DECLARE PRESIDENT'S

RULE IN TAMILNAD JANUARY 31 TO POLCOUNSELOR FEBRUARY 3.  
REDDY SAID ALL HIS INFO CAME FROM SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS IN  
DELHI.

2. REDDY OBSERVED THAT A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN THE PM'S  
DECISION TO CRUSH THE DMK WAS HER BELIEF THAT THE USG WAS  
SUPPORTING OR SYMPATHETIC TO THE DMK. HE HASTENED TO OBSERVE  
THAT AS A SOUTHERNER HIMSELF HE KNOWS THIS WAS NONSENSE AND  
WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION WHATSOEVER, BUT HE ALSO KNEW FOR A  
FACT THAT MRS.GANDHI HAD MADE THIS ALLEGATION TO SEVERAL  
CLOSE ASSOCIATES, ONE OF WHOM HAD TOLD REDDY OF HER REMARKS.  
WE DRAW DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION AGAIN (ALSO SEE NEW DELHI  
1658) TO NATIONAL HERALD EDITORIAL FEBRUARY WHICH REFERS  
TO PM'S REMARKS THAT "DANGER TO INDIA'S PEACE AND SECURITY  
ARISING FROM ATTEMPTS BY OTHER POWERS AT DESTABILIZATION WITH  
HELP OF HOSTILE LOCAL GROUPS, OR PARTIES" AS KEY TO UNDER-  
STANDING WHY PRESIDENT'S RULE WAS DECLARED IN TAMILNAD.  
NATIONAL HERALD, OF COURSE, IS CONGRESS-CONTROLLED AND BELONGS  
TO NEHRU FAMILY TRUST. REDDY'S STORY ADDS UNFORTUNATE  
WEIGHT TO THE IMPLICATION ALL TOO CLEAR IN THE EDITORIAL.

3. REDDY SAYS THAT PM'S DECISION ON PRESIDENT'S RULE WAS  
TAKEN JANUARY 24 AND BASED ON INTELLIGENCE INFO THAT DMK  
PLANNED SERIES OF MEETINGS, PARADES, DEMONSTRATIONS BEGINNING  
FEBRUARY 1 AIMED AT BUILDING PUBLIC OPPOSITION AND REACTION,  
INCLUDING POTENTIAL VIOLENCE, AGAINST ANTICIPATED DECLARA-  
TION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE.KTM'S DECISION ON PRESIDENT'S  
RULE HAD TO BE MADE BY FEBRUARY 14 (ACCORDING TO STATEMENT  
BY INDIAN ELECTION COMMISSIONER SWAINATHAN TO REDDY)  
BECAUSE COMMISSIONER HAD TO BE INFORMED WHETHER TO MAKE  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTIONS IN TAMILNAD BY THIS DATE AT THE  
LATEST. DMK AGITATIONS ALLEGEDLY PLANNED FOR EARLY FEBRUARY  
AIMED TOWARD THIS DATE, GOI BELIEVED, AND GOI ACTIONS WERE  
TAKEN IN SECRECY AND PLANNED ALMOST LIKE A COUP D'ETAT (LIKE  
THE MOVE AGAINST MJUIB IN BANGLADESH, REDDY SAID) AGAINST DMK?

4. REDDY SAID THAT GOI HAD MOVED 16 RPT 16BATAILLIONS INTO  
TAMILNAD ON JANUARY 31: SIX BSF, FIVE CRP, AND FIVE ARMY.  
(BY ACCIDENT FE CRP UNIT MOVED ON EVENING OF JANUARY 30  
AND TIPPED THE IMPENDING ACTION SOMEWHAT AHEAD OF TIME.)  
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GOVERNOR OF TAMILNAD, CHIEF MINISTER, AND CHIEF SECRETARY  
WERE NOT INFORMED OF FORCE MOVEMENTS, CONTRARY TO ALL NORMAL  
PRACTICE. (SEPARATE EMBASSY SOURCE TELLS US THATIMADRA  
AIRPORT LOOKED LIKE "BERLIN AIRLIFT" WITH PLANES  
CARRYING IN TROOP UNITS ONE AFTER ANOTHER JANUARY 31.)

5. REDDY CONFIRMED PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT GOV. SHAH HAD  
ARGUEDSTRONGLY AGAINST PRESIDENT'S RULE AND HAD BEEN LED

TO BELIEVE THAT HIS ADVICE WAS BEING HEEDDED IN ORDER TO MIS-  
LEAD DMK LEADERS. REDDY SAID BILL OF PARTICULARS JUSTIFYING  
EMERGENCY HAD, AS WE SPECULATED, BEEN PREPARED IN DELHI  
AND SENT TO SHAH AT LAST MINUTE FOR HIS FORMAL APPROVAL.  
SHAH IS SOON TO BE REPLACED PROBABLY BY ASSAM CHIEF  
SECRETARY SABRANAYAYAM WILL ALSO GO. DECISION TO REPLACE  
TAMILNAD IGP ARUL WAS MADE AND THEN RESERVED AT LEAST  
TEMPORARILY.

6. REDDY, HIMSELF A SOUTH INDIAN FROM ANDHRA, BELIEVES THE  
SHORT-TERM LAW AND ORDER PROBLEM IS NOT LIKELY TO BE SERIOUS.  
LONGER-TERM TENSIONS AND ANTAGONISMS BETWEEN BRAHMINS AND NON-  
BRAHMINS, HE FEELS, AND REVIVAL OF NORTH-SOUTH TENSIONS WILL  
BE MAIN ADVERSE FALL-OUT AND THE ADMK IS LIKELY TO SUFFER  
FROM BEING SEEN AS CATSPAW OF NORTHERNERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, REORGANIZATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 04 FEB 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**To:** STATE BOMBAY  
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